

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00098 231056Z
ACTION NEA-10

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R 231016Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0098

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, XI, SA
SUBJECT: APR 78 BLDG AND CONSTRUCTION MISSION

REF: (A) USDOC 1265, (B) 77 DHAHRAN 1455

1. CONSULATE HAD SUGGESTED RESCHEDULING OF TM FOR DHAHRAN (REFTEL B) SINCE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE ALLOWED ONLY ONE FULL WORKING DAY HERE. ALTHOUGH WE DISLIKE TO REMIND VISITORS THAT THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ARE NOT RPT NOT WORKING DAYS HERE, THERE IS IMPRESSION OUTSIDE SAUDI ARABAI THAT SAUDI AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, PARTICULARLY ARAMCO, IN ESATERN PROVINCE ARE EAGER TO CONDUCT BUSINESS ON THEIR WEEKEND. ARAMCO HEADQUARTERS IN DHAHRAN CLOSES DOWN ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, AND ONLY SOME SAUDI BUSINESSMEN ARE IN THEIR OFFICES ON THURSDAY MORNING.

2. SINCE ARAMCO IS NOT IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS PER SE BUT USES OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED

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HOUSING, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ARAMCO PERSONNEL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MEETING EVEN INFORMALLY WITH TM MEMBERS OVER THURSDAY-FRIDAY WEEKEND AS SUGGESTED PARA 4 REFTTEL.

3. IF TM MEMBERS ARE WILLING SPEND THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND FRIDAY IN DHAHRAN AS NON-WORKING DAYS AND RESUME TM ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY, CONSULATE WOULD PROGRAM EXTENSION OF TRADE MISSION THROUGH APRIL 22.

HOWEVER, TM MEMBERS MUST HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT ONEAND ONE-HALF DAYS OF THEIR STAY HERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE UTILIZED FOR BUSINESS CONTACTS.

4. CONSULATE WOULD PREFER TWO WORKING DAYS IN SUCCESSION FOR TM, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT USDOC IN PREPARING FUTURE TM'S WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE NOT TO SCHEDULE TM'S INTO DHAHRAN ON SAUDI WEEKEND.
BUSHNELL

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